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Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 MMS-01 PER-01 ABF-01

SS-15 SP-02 (ISO) W
---------- 125391
P 100801Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 527
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3993

PLEASE PASS TO DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, MY
SUBJ: DEA STAFFING

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 3490

1. CHARGE DISCUSSED DEA STAFFING TODAY (JULY 9)
WITH MFA UNDERSECRETARY KHOR ENG HEE WHO HAD PROMISED
LAST WEEK TO DELIVER FINAL GOM REPLY TO AMBASSADOR
UNDERHILL'S REQUEST FOR AN OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE
PROPOSAL FOR A THIRD DEA POSITION HERE. ALTHOUGH THE
REPLY WAS COUCHED IN TYPICAL MALAYSIAN AMBIGUITY, IT
WAS ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE. KHOR SAID: GOM MINISTRIES
INVOLVED, PRIMARILY MINISTRY OF LAW AND MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS, HAD NO OBJECTION "IN PRINCIPLE" TO A
THIRD DEA MAN, BUT THAT IT MUST BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT
THE GOM WAS NOT REPEAT NOT REQUESTING A MAN, AND
THAT THIS WAS A REQUEST FROM THE UNITED STATES SIDE.

THE REQUEST WOULD BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE FOLLOWING
CONDITIONS:
A. BIO-DATA SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE FOR APPROVAL;
B. MAN WOULD HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC STATUS;
C. MAN WOULD DEAL ONLY WITH CENTRAL NARCOTICS
BUREAU.
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2. I TOLD KHOR THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I DID NOT REPEAT NOT THINK USG WOULD BE MAKING REQUEST. I EXPLAINED (AS I HAVE EXPLAINED BEFORE) THAT AMBASSADOR UNDERHILL HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THOSE GOM POLICE OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS PROBLEMS WANTED AN ADDITIONAL DEA MAN. WHAT I HAD HOPED TO GET WAS NOT NECESSARILY A REQUEST FROM THE GOM, BUT A FAIRLY POSITIVE EXPRESSION THAT INDEED THE GOM WISHED US TO EXPAND OUR DEA OFFICE. IT SEEMED CLEAR TO ME THAT WHAT KHOR TOLD ME WAS NOT, REPEAT NOT, A POSITIVE EXPRESSION. KHOR STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT GOM POSITION HE HAD RELATED TO ME WAS PRINCIPALLY POSITION OF MINITRY OF HOME AFFAIRS -- MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICE.

3. AS ABOVE SUGGESTS, MALAYSIANS, IN NOT UNUSUAL FASHION, HAVOIDED SAYING NO. ON OTHER HAND, THEY HAVE GONE TO SOME LENGTHS TO AVOID SAYING YES. IN PARTICULAR, BUREAU OF NARCOTICS DOES NOT HAVE MAIN ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITY HERE AND THIS RESTRICTION IS A CLEAR NEGATIVE SIGNAL. THEREFORE, CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY GOM ARE SUCH THAT THIS EMBASSY CAN ONLY RELUCTANTLY TURN DOWN DEA PROPOSAL TO ADD POSITION.
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